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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

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* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

16.1 The programme is under the responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

16.2 The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 36 (IV), established ECE and assigned to it responsibilities for coordination and promotion of international economic cooperation in Europe. Further direction to the programme is provided by the work plan on ECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2005. Taking into account also the role of the regional commissions, as set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, and the goals and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the main objectives of the ECE work programme for the period 2008-2009 will be: (a) to promote the economic integration of ECE countries at the pan-European level, taking into account the enlargement of the European Union and the various integration initiatives under way in the eastern part of the ECE region; (b) to foster sustainable development and promote economic prosperity in the countries of the region by, in particular, promoting the conditions for sustained growth and trade and improving the environment; and (c) to contribute to the economic and environmental dimensions of security in Europe.

16.3 The ECE reform resulted in a major restructuring of the programme of work, with substantial programme shifts based on priorities agreed upon by ECE member States. The reform also streamlined the ECE governance structure that in turn provides for more accountability and transparency. It further emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation with other organizations (both United Nations and non-United Nations) active in the region in order to maximize synergies, avoid duplication and ensure an effective complementarity of work.

16.4 The revised ECE programme of work is designed around eight subprogrammes, namely, environment, transport, statistics, sustainable energy, trade, timber and forestry, housing, land management and population, and the newly established subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration aimed at promoting sustained growth, innovation for development and higher competitiveness, in particular in countries of the region with economies in transition. The core strategy focuses on the negotiation and implementation of conventions, norms, standards and guidelines; the organization of policy debate and exchange of experience in the key areas of ECE work, including supporting policy analysis, studies and statistics; and the provision of technical assistance, policy advice and capacity-building, to support the implementation of the ECE norms and standards in countries with economies in transition. Moreover, the implementation of the core strategy will contribute not only to economic integration in the region as a whole but also to the reduction in disparities and the prevention of the emergence of new dividing lines in Europe. The normative work of ECE will promote greater regulatory compatibility among ECE member States throughout the region. Furthermore, it will have a positive impact on the rest of the world, as many ECE-developed agreements and standards (in particular in the areas of transport, trade facilitation, statistics, energy and environmental protection) become more accepted for use in countries of other regions.

16.5 In line with the ECE reform, more attention will be given to promoting intersectoral activities, particularly transport and environment, trade and transport, energy and transport, and energy and environment. Particular attention will also be paid to the gender dimension of development as it relates to the agreed conclusions on women in the economy adopted at the ECE regional Beijing+10 review.

16.6 The policy debate and exchange of experiences within ECE will facilitate the identification of best policies for strengthening subregional and regional integration and monitoring progress made in the region on achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as supporting their effective implementation within the work areas of ECE.

16.7 Technical cooperation activities of ECE will focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. They will aim at (a) improving national capacities to implement legally binding instruments and other regional standards; and (b) finding solutions to transboundary problems. Following the new impetus provided by the Astana Conference (May 2005), the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, jointly executed with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will be further strengthened in each of the agreed areas of cooperation.

16.8 ECE will continue to integrate the security dimension in its relevant subprogrammes, with a view to contributing to the review and implementation of those commitments that correspond to its areas of expertise, as agreed in the memorandum of understanding with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and in the work plan set up between the two organizations.

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Objective of the Organization: To safeguard the environment and human health, improve environmental management throughout the region and strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional international commitments by member countries	(a) (i) Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing legally binding instruments
	(ii) Increased number of countries having reported implementation of major decisions taken at the 2007 Belgrade Ministerial Conference
(b) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	(b) (i) Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance through a set of indicators reported by environmental performance reviews

	(ii) Increased percentage of recommendations that have been implemented by the reviewed countries as reported to the Committee on Environmental Policy
(c) Strengthened capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe	(c) Increased number of countries that finalized periodic state-of-the-environment reporting following the guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the state and protection of the environment

Strategy

16.9 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. In line with the objective of the subprogramme, the Division will focus on enhancing international assistance activities to build appropriate capacities to implement and comply, where appropriate, in agreement with the parties to the ECE environmental conventions, with the ECE environmental commitments, including conventions and their protocols, as well as on promoting synergies and cooperation between them. The subprogramme will continue to conduct the second round of environmental performance reviews of countries with economies in transition and to build environmental observation and reporting capacities, contributing to the provision of timely and accurate environmental data through improved monitoring in those countries. The subprogramme will further promote the implementation of sustainable development in the ECE region by contributing to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of regional environment and sustainable development conferences, in particular of the decisions taken by the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", to be held in Belgrade in 2007.

16.10 The strategy of the subprogramme will also include: furthering intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development, a voluntarily funded programme, the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment, and water and health, contributing to developing and harmonizing environmental policies in the region leading to improved cross-border environmental security; supporting the implementation of regional and subregional agreements and action programmes, including the strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as well as processes and partnerships resulting from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, by providing regional contributions on the priority areas of the 2007-2010 programme cycles of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption, at the regional and/or global level, of amendments to existing legal instruments and recommendations on road transport, road, rail, inland water and combined transport infrastructure, border crossing, transport of dangerous goods and other transport issues, as well as to vehicle regulations, and development of new legal instruments and new vehicle regulations, including global vehicle regulations	(a) (i) The number of existing legal instruments amended (ii) The number of amendments to existing vehicle regulations and number of new vehicle regulations, including global vehicle regulations (iii) The number of participants in regular meetings of the ECE bodies on transport deciding on amendments to existing legal instruments and recommendations, to which ECE provides the secretariat (iv) The number of adopted amendments to United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
(b) Increased implementation of the ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport	(b) (i) The total number of States parties to ECE legal instruments on transport (ii) The number of new accessions to ECE legal instruments on transport from ECE and non-ECE countries (iii) The number of international legal instruments amended to reflect revisions to ECE legal instruments on transport as well as to United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
(c) Further development of transport infrastructure conducive to enhanced economic cooperation, in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries as well as in Caucasus and Central Asian countries	(c) The number of projects and/or capacity-building programmes undertaken to promote transport infrastructure

Strategy

16.11 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The strategy will focus on updating and improvement of the existing ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport issues, including road transport, road traffic safety, intermodality, vehicle safety and emissions, transport of dangerous goods, border-crossing facilitation, and road, rail, inland water and combined transport infrastructures. Updating will introduce new technological developments, organizational measures and best national practices, with a view to, inter alia, reducing further the number of road accidents and victims and the impacts of transport on the environment and improving transport security. This will be achieved through consensus and agreement reached at the ECE intergovernmental mandated meetings on transport, for which the Division provides the secretariat.

16.12 Steps will be also taken to promote accession to and implementation of the ECE legal instruments on transport, in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries as well as in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries, and accession to those instruments by non-ECE countries. Implementation will be promoted through the monitoring of as many legal instruments as possible, through technical and legal advice on the implications for countries, through training seminars and other capacity-building activities and through subregional cooperation for coordinated implementation. Furthermore, emphasis will be placed on subregional cooperation for the development of Euro-Asian transport links, including through landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with ESCAP, and of other transport infrastructures in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as on promoting transport links with Africa and the Middle East, including across the Mediterranean, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Cooperation will be intensified with other international organizations, notably, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, in order to improve coordination, organize joint activities and avoid duplication. Cooperation will also be intensified with the World Health Organization and the other regional commissions in order to improve global road safety in response to General Assembly resolution 60/5. The needs of the beneficiaries of the transport subprogramme will also be met through the participation of other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations representing transport operators, relevant industries, transport users and consumers in the above-mentioned ECE activities.

16.13 Cooperation will be strengthened with the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and the World Health Organization-Europe in the framework of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Environment and Health. Cooperation will also be enhanced with the Trade and Timber Division in order to improve border crossing, and with the Sustainable Energy Division in order to improve energy efficiency in transport.

16.14 This strategy also applies to the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its subsidiary bodies, for which the Transport Division also provides a secretariat.

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To improve the reliability of national official statistics and ensure their comparability at the international level, and to play the central coordination role for the international statistical activities undertaken in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Further developed national institutional frameworks and corresponding implementation practices of member countries, in line with the ECE Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	(a) (i) The number of countries ensuring better compliance with the Fundamental Principles through revision of their national statistical legislations
	(ii) The number of ECE recommendations implemented to improve national institutional frameworks for official statistics
(b) Increased development of internationally recommended standards and practices to ensure comparable statistics	(b) (i) The number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations endorsed by a statistical authority to which ECE has contributed in substance
	(ii) The number of statistical areas in which the ECE undertakes substantive methodological work
(c) Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work between international organizations through elimination of overlaps and gaps	(c) (i) The percentage of joint activities in the ECE statistical programme undertaken in cooperation with OECD, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other international organizations
	(ii) The number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities in the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes
(d) Increased availability of reliable, timely and comparable macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics, particularly about the less advanced countries of the region	(d) (i) Increased percentage of available data of good quality in the overview tables (percentage of non-empty data cells to the total number of data cells)
	(ii) Increased percentage of users that express, through user surveys, satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE database

Strategy

16.15 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistics Division. Coordinating all international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The subprogramme will address horizontal and general issues of official statistics. It will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics within the international statistical community, providing advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics, monitoring the implementation of Fundamental Principles and adhering to them for all ECE statistical activities. It will focus on a carefully selected number of niches in different subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide an added value and complement the work undertaken by other international organizations. Public access to all meeting documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations will provide the basis for transparency and accountability. From the methodological standpoint, the subprogramme will be focused on developing standards, guidelines and leading practices, including the advice on ECE standards, and related implementation at the national level. Technical cooperation will focus its activities on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries, including assistance and monitoring in the field of population censuses, the development account project for Central Asia and training activities for less developed countries of the region. The data work undertaken by the Statistical Division will respond to a sustained internal and/or external demand. Data will be accessible to the public as statistical products in electronic form. The cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings aimed at coordinating the development of methodologies and the preparation of standards, recommendations and publication of best practices. Data-sharing through joint questionnaires and coordinated data collection will be expanded further.

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: To promote a more conducive policy, financial and regulatory environment for economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the ECE region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced sharing of best practices and their promotion among member countries on issues dealt with by the subprogramme	(a) Increased number of best practices discussed and disseminated under the subprogramme
(b) Adoption by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration of practical and action-oriented policy recommendations/guidelines on issues placed on its 2008-2009 work programme	(b) Set of policy recommendations/guidelines adopted by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration
(c) Increased implementation of the ECE recommendations on matters dealt with by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration	(c) (i) Increased number of practical steps taken by Governments and other stakeholders to implement recommendations of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (ii) Number of requests acted on for policy-advisory services and capacity-building activities aimed at assisting countries to implement recommendations of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Strategy

16.16 The responsibility for the subprogramme will be vested in the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division. In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will focus on key aspects of economic development and integration and mainly on countries of the region with economies in transition. It will deliver policy advice, facilitate policy dialogue and exchange experiences and best practices as well as develop relevant guidelines. To this end the subprogramme will facilitate application of the experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development and elaborate on this basis recommendations aimed at creating policy and a financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation. Work under the subprogramme will be demand driven, focus on specific topics and, subject to the multi-year work programme of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, aim at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by: (a) promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation; (b) facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises; (c) facilitating effective corporate governance and regulatory policies, including those in the financial sector; and (d) promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, as well as intellectual property rights.

16.17 Building, inter alia, on relevant work carried out by other organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, the strategy calls for undertaking applied economic analysis, collecting lessons learned and experiences gained, preparing case studies and elaborating proposals and options for policy debate among member States and other stakeholders.

16.18 The results of this work would be considered by thematic groups of experts and time-bound task forces, involving representatives of Governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders, which would provide a platform for exchanges of national policy experiences and identification of best practices. Subsequently, those outputs would be brought to the attention of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which would serve as a forum for policy dialogue among member States and elaborate relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and standards. The results of the work carried out under the subprogramme would be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders. Those results would also serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops, with a view to assisting member States, upon their request, particularly countries with economies in transition, including emerging market economies, in the adaptation and application of best practices and the implementation of guidelines, standards and policy recommendations emanating from the Committee.

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate (a) the transition to a more sustainable development path for the production and use of energy; and (b) the fuller integration of the energy economies and energy infrastructure of countries in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in the international dialogue between Governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources	(a) (i) Increased percentage of participants in policy discussions and discussions on technical matters, who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making (ii) Percentage of respondents to a web-based survey that find ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues very useful
(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition	(b) (i) Increased percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making

	(ii) Increased number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the ECE energy efficiency 21 project that has been approved for financing in the economies in transition
(c) Further extension and implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and the guidelines on reforming energy prices and subsidies	(c) (i) Increased number of professional organizations and international standard-setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities
	(ii) Increased number of countries expressing intent to apply the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources in their fossil energy and uranium resources management
	(iii) Increased number of ECE countries that have adjusted energy prices and tariffs to remove price distortions, encourage efficient energy consumption and attract investment into the energy sector
(d) Progress in implementation of projects in support of sustainable energy development in coal, natural gas, and electricity	(d) Increased volume of diesel fuel replaced by natural gas in commercial vehicles on the Blue Corridor project road transport itinerary across Europe

Strategy

16.19 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division. Taking into account the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session in 2006, the subprogramme will focus on promoting the development of sustainable energy strategies for the ECE region. In particular, it will assist member States to ensure sustained access to high quality energy services for all individuals in the ECE region; enhance energy security and diversification of energy supplies; and maintain well-balanced energy network systems tailored to optimize operating efficiencies and overall regional cooperation. It will also enable member countries to improve energy conservation and efficiency; reduce energy-related health and environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions; facilitate the development and implementation of new environmentally sound and economically viable technologies; and increase the use of renewable energy resources. Attaining the

subprogramme objectives will involve activities of the subsidiary organs of the Commission and the active participation of Governments and international organizations, such as the International Energy Agency, the International Energy Forum and the Energy Charter, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, non-governmental organizations and the energy industries, including relevant private-sector partners, such as the financial community. The work programme will aim at: enhancing networking and public-private partnerships; knowledge-sharing; identification of best practices; preparation of policy-oriented reports; fostering policy dialogue, including the provision of advice and recommendations; developing guidelines, norms and standards; and providing training and technical assistance, including the preparation of investment projects and facilitating access to finance.

Subprogramme 6
Trade

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption by member States of new/revised ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(a) The number of new and/or updated ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce agreed upon by member States
(b) Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(b) (i) Increased number of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools implemented by ECE member States and other countries (ii) The number of downloads of key recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use (iii) The number of requests for assistance received from member States and other international organizations to assist in the promotion and implementation of ECE trade-related instruments

Strategy

16.20 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will support the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8 in the ECE region, aiming at developing an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, taking into account the

importance given to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, the elimination of poverty and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations documents. In this context, the subprogramme will focus on reduction of barriers to trade in goods and services caused by differences in regulatory approaches and differences in the procedures, standards and documents used by Governments and business for trade. The main targets of the subprogramme will include:

(a) Developing simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. Those instruments include global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to electronic-business-based processes and for the harmonization, simplification and automation of information flows and business practices used in international trade;

(b) Contributing to a predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business through the development of frameworks for regulatory convergence, the promotion of international standards within the regulatory environment and the identification of best practices for regulatory enforcement;

(c) Promoting trade in agricultural produce, supported by agreed upon, clear and easy to use commercial quality standards through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards that are used by Governments for regulatory purposes as well as by the private sector;

(d) Supporting Governments in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations, including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed countries in the region.

16.21 As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will work through its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners, which include the World Trade Organization, the International Organization for Standardization, the World Customs Organization, OECD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other United Nations regional commissions and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization: To improve sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services throughout the ECE region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding of sustainable forest management, notably the policies necessary to achieve it, based on increased ability to measure sustainable forest management at the national and regional levels	(a) (i) Increased percentage of ECE countries with national forest programmes or similar holistic forest sector policy frameworks (ii) Increased percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on indicators of sustainable forest management to the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
(b) Increased understanding of the sound use of wood, leading to policies to promote it and increased ability to monitor it	(b) (i) Increased percentage of ECE countries with policies in place on sound use of wood, whether as part of national forest programmes or not (ii) Increased percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood)
(c) Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level, notably by developing appropriate policy measures	(c) Increased number of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe adopting national forest programmes

Strategy

16.22 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience and joint efforts to measure progress. Priorities for 2008-2009 will be guided by the 2007 Ministerial Conference and other relevant forums. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, the subprogramme will pay special attention to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region. As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and provide input to the United Nations Forum on Forests. To support forest

management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social point of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management.

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

Objective of the Organization: To improve the housing and urban governance in the region as well as the necessary knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies and developing capacities at the national and local levels.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved national capacity for housing-related policy formulation and implementation, taking into consideration the socially disadvantaged groups of the population	(a) Increased number of countries engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their housing policies, which has led to specific legal reforms and a broader range of housing opportunities
(b) Enhanced development of and reforms in land administration to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate	(b) Increased number of countries engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their land administration systems, which has led to specific legal reforms and more transparent land management practices
(c) Enhanced policy discussion on population issues based on the up-to-date knowledge emanating from the ECE cooperation programmes	(c) Increased number of countries that have adjusted their policies or taken new measures in the policy areas discussed in the meetings organized by the Population Activities Unit

Strategy

16.23 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. The subprogramme will aim at promoting the implementation of the ECE strategy for sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century, strengthening the regional contribution to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and addressing the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration (eradication of extreme poverty, promotion of gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability), as well as the regional priorities for human settlements, as decided upon at the first Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development. With a view to achieving those goals, efforts will be concentrated on collecting and analysing information on housing conditions, trends and policies, assessing the existing housing situation, reviewing housing policies, providing policy recommendations and carrying out capacity-building activities at

the national and local levels to contribute to efficient and transparent governance. In support of those strategic directions, private-public partnerships will be encouraged. Furthermore, the subprogramme will support improvement of land and urban services, and identify, develop and disseminate good practices on innovative policies for promoting the renovation and maintenance of the existing housing stock, as well as policies for new housing construction and urban environment improvement. It will also support the upgrade of land and real estate systems in order to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate.

16.24 In the area of population, the subprogramme will assist countries in population-related policymaking through information exchange and meetings and facilitate implementation of the final documents of regional and global conferences on population issues, such as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the ECE regional implementation strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. To provide up-to-date knowledge for the policy discussion, the subprogramme will coordinate regional cooperation in data collection and research on the determinants of demographic choices, ageing and gender relations. Such cooperation will aim at building national-level capacity in conducting policy-oriented research on population issues and harnessing the outputs of that research to the benefit of policymaking.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
56/201	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/156	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
57/274	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

59/168	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
59/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
59/243	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
59/250	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System
59/259	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
59/240	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2005/31	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2005/48	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/RW.2/2000/7	ECE Report from the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, January 2000
E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform

Subprogramme 1
Environment

General Assembly resolutions

58/217	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
59/228	Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

Subprogramme 2
Transport

General Assembly resolutions

58/9	Global road safety crisis
58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
59/245	Specific actions relating to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
60/5	Improving global road safety

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2005/34	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar
2005/53	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

General Assembly resolutions

58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
59/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
59/243	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

General Assembly resolutions

60/199	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources

Subprogramme 6
Trade

General Assembly resolutions

56/182	Science and technology for development
56/183	World Summit on the Information Society
57/274	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
59/221	International trade and development
59/243	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
60/184	International trade and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation
2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

General Assembly resolutions

54/218	Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

General Assembly resolutions

57/275	Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
59/150	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
59/239	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
59/241	International migration and development

ECE Committee on Human Settlements

	"ECE Strategy for Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century (ECE/HBP/120) endorsed at a Ministerial meeting in 2000 as stated in Ministerial Declaration "Towards a sustainable improvement in living conditions in the ECE region in the 21st century" (ECE/HBP/119/Add.1)